



We are so excited to welcome you and your new pet to Providence Veterinary Clinic! At Providence Veterinary Clinic, we understand that pets are part of the family. We take pride in nurturing the bond between you and your pet through exceptional veterinary care.

HOURS AND DIRECTIONS

1100 Mount Bethel Drive

Marietta, GA 30068

(770)-565-7175

Monday -Friday 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Saturday 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Dr. Taylour Welborn, DVM

Dr. Caroline Horne, DVM

Dr. Haley Dromsky, DVM

Dr. Blakelee Price, DVM

EXAMINATIONS

Physical exams are as important as any vaccines we give!

Every new kitten should have a full physical examination after adoption. This is to ensure your pet does not have any congenital disorders and to answer any questions you may have in raising your new kitten. Thereafter your pet will need an annual visit to the vet for their exam and vaccinations.

VACCINES

Kittens require a series of vaccines in their early months to protect them from serious disease. After the kitten reaches adulthood, its vaccines are updated every 1 to 3 years to ensure continued protection.

Rabies: The rabies vaccination is a core vaccine required by Georgia law at 16 weeks of age and boosted yearly. Rabies vaccination is vital for the health and safety of your cat, your family and the community.

FVRCP: (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia)

FVRCP is another core vaccine that is an extremely effective way to protect your kitty against 3 highly contagious and life-threatening feline diseases; Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (that's the FVR part of the vaccine name), Feline Calicivirus (represented by the C), and the Feline Panleukopenia (the P at the end of the vaccine name).

FELV: (Feline Leukemia) The FELV vaccine may be appropriate for your kitten if it has contact with other cats, especially stray cats. Once we know their personality and lifestyle at a year old, we can decide if it is needed.

FECAL EXAMINATION

This test is a check for various intestinal parasites, and is recommended for all kittens, and then every 12 months for older cats, especially those that go outside.



A small, fresh stool sample can be brought in a plastic bag or other container. It is checked for various intestinal parasites. Tapeworms and roundworms may also be seen in the stool or on the kitten's anal area. Intestinal parasites can be harmful to kittens and can be transmitted to people, so it is important to bring in samples regularly and give any deworming medication as directed. Also, encourage children to wash their hands, keep them away from areas that may be contaminated by feces, and wear gloves or wash hands after cleaning the litter box.

HEARTWORM TESTING

Heartworms are blood parasites that can be carried by mosquitos to cats (even indoor-only cats). They literally live in the heart and can cause heart failure and death.

They are difficult to diagnose in cats, and very difficult to treat. A monthly topical (applied on the skin) medication is recommended year-round to kill heartworm larvae and common intestinal parasites. It is started at 6 to 8 weeks of age and is recommended life-long.

FLEA AND TICK PREVENTION

Georgia is unfortunately home to a thriving population of fleas and ticks. Fleas and ticks can not only cause discomfort but can also transmit diseases. We have several products that are very effective in eliminating fleas and preventing re-infestations.

NEUTERING/SPAYING

We recommend this procedure for our patients for health and behavioral reasons as well as population control.

We recommend spaying or neutering your cat when they are between 4- 6 months old. Spaying female cats before their first heat cycle prevents pregnancy, uterine infection, and minimizes the risk of future mammary (breast) cancer. It also prevents them from going into heat, which is very stressful for female cats that are restricted from mating. Neutering a male cat prior to 6 months of age generally prevents urine marking in the house and greatly decreases the cat's desire to roam and to fight with

other males. Please discuss these procedures and the best time to perform them with your veterinarian.

MICROCHIP

If your cat is lost and is taken to a shelter or clinic, it will automatically be checked for a microchip, and if it has one, you will be called.

We inject this tiny transponder under the skin and register your cat for life with a 24-hour hotline. We strongly recommend this safe, easy method of permanent identification. You must keep the registry informed if your phone number or address changes!

THE DREADED VET VISIT

These tips will hopefully help make your feline companion's visit not so terrifying.

Most cats run for their lives the moment the cat carrier appears! They associate it only with vet visits, and it fills them with horror. We would prefer the carrier to be your cat's "safe place" when you take them to our hospital. Get a cat carrier that opens on top, or one where the top can be removed. Cats really hate being pulled out of carriers or being dumped out of them. Put something clean and soft in the carrier, such as a soft towel or a fleece throw. At home, leave the cat carrier out all the time, with the door open! Try putting food, toys, fleece blankets, catnip and treats in it (not all at the same time), or lure your cat in with the laser pen. If your cat gets comfortable in the carrier, try closing the door for a couple minutes – not for long!! The day of the vet visit, don't give your cat much to eat. If he is hungry, he may take our treats as "comfort food", in the exam room.

When you come in with your cat, please ask for a towel to cover his carrier with. Avoid putting the carrier on the floor, and speak to our receptionist if there are noisy or boisterous dogs in the lobby. They can put your carrier up high or take it to a quieter area.

If your cat has a pattern of getting so stressed at the vet that we cannot handle him or her, please give us a head's up about this. We are often willing to give you a mild sedative that you can mix into your cat's food 90 minutes prior to leaving home.

DIET

Kittens and cats should be fed 2 to 3 times a day. You can switch to adult cat food at one year of age. Indoor cats tend to gain weight more easily. This can predispose them to joint problems, diabetes, and liver disease. We recommend the following food companies because of their knowledge of pet nutrition and their quality control: Hills Science Diet, Royal Canin, and Purina (especially Proplan line).

Cats who go outdoors get vital exercise and mental stimulation by hunting all day long. Indoor cats need a replacement for all this activity. For fun and exercise, both extremely important to your indoor cat's health, we recommend putting small amounts of dry food or treats in various hiding places (high places, closets, boxes and bags, under towels or pieces of tissue paper). You can also put treats or dry food in "treat puzzles" (you can make some by cutting holes in soda bottles and cardboard containers). Some cats have strong preferences for either canned food or dry food, and most cats hate change! Diet changes should be done gradually (over about a week), and if a cat is completely refusing to eat a new food, the old diet should be given. Fasting can be very dangerous for cats.

ENRICHMENT

Two kittens will play together all day long, in between frequent naps. If you have a single kitten, you need to provide a lot of play time! Play is extremely satisfying to a cat, and greatly reduces stress as well. Your new kitten will adapt somewhat to your schedule, sleeping when you are out and (hopefully!) while you are sleeping. The rest of the time, they will want to play or cuddle with you, so you need to find some easy ways to interact with them for maximum satisfaction of this instinct.

Cat toys: There are a huge variety of toys for cats to amuse themselves with: Catnip stuffed mice, small balls, etc. Cats respond really well to "fishing pole" type toys: toys with a stick and a string or wire with a toy or feather at the end. These toys allow you to entertain and exercise the cat without the handler getting scratched or bitten.

Cats love paper bags (always cut off the handles!), cardboard boxes, tissue paper, cat trees (well worth the expense) and hiding places. Cats need to climb and love to be up high. Vertical spaces allow them

to observe from a safe place, survey their environment, and get away from each other, if desired.

CLAWING FURNITURE

Cats need scratching posts! Different cats prefer different types so you might have to try a few different ones. Most cats like sisal or cardboard although some prefer wood, fabric, or carpet. Cats may prefer to scratch vertical, diagonal, or horizontal surfaces. You may need to try more than one kind, and the more the better around your house!

A scratching post must be substantial enough to not move when the cat uses it. It should be in an area the cat is comfortable in and spends time in. If a cat is already clawing the furniture, put the scratching post in that area. Rub a little catnip into it and reward your cat with treats for using it. If you have multiple cats, you need multiple scratching posts. Most cats do not need to have their nails trimmed. They shed the outer layer of the claw periodically. If you wish to keep them short for your own protection, (or to slightly decrease the damage to your furniture) we can show you how. Kittens tend to climb everything (drapes, pants legs, bare legs) but they generally stop doing this as they get older.



LITTER BOX CARE

The litter box is an essential part of your cat's environment, and problems associated with it can be very difficult to live with. It is therefore essential that you try to prevent them, and equally important that you call us as soon as possible if your cat isn't using the box. These are the basic rules:

- The box should be as large as possible (at least 1 ½ times the length of the cat from nose to base of tail)
- The box should not be in a noisy, hard to reach, or unpleasant part of the house. When in doubt, add more litter boxes to the environment.

- Multiple cats need multiple boxes. We recommend have a litterbox for each cat and one additional one. So if you have 3 cats, we recommend having 4 litter boxes available.
- Covered litter boxes are NOT recommended. They have little air flow, they trap odors, and they can be awkward to get in and out of. They are also harder to clean, and, therefore, are usually cleaned less often.
- Most cats prefer fine, CLUMPING, UNSCENTED, UNDEODORIZED litter. Litter is scented for humans, not for cats!
- The box should be scooped ONCE A DAY and completely dumped out once a month (or more often).

Call immediately if your cat ever appears to be unable to urinate. This can indicate a life-threatening emergency.

EAR CARE

Feline ears are very sensitive and easily inflamed. We do not recommend cleaning them or putting anything in them unless this is recommended by a veterinarian. A little gray or tan wax is not uncommon and should be left alone. Kittens do occasionally have ear mites. If your kitten is constantly scratching at its ears, please schedule an appointment.

OTHER CONCERNS

A doctor or technician can discuss routine home- care of nails, teeth, and ears. Please call us if you have any further questions!

